

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 ERDA-05

OES-06 EA-07 /064 W

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P R 211051Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5620

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5247

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, PK,

SUBJECT: NASA PORTABLE LANDSAT RECEIVER

REFERENCE: STATE 122851

1. ON MAY 21, AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST, CHARGE AND POL COUNS
CALLED ON GOP ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ TO DISCUSS
AMONG OTHERS THIS SUBJECT. THE DAY BEFORE, THE FORMINISTRY
HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE REQUEST POSED IN REFTEL.

2. SHAHNAWAZ SAID THAT WHILE HE APPRECIATED THAT NASA

HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE AN AIRCRAFT BRING THE
PORTABLE RECEIVER TO ISLAMABAD ON MAY 28, HE REGRETTED THAT
HE MUST ASK THAT DESPATCH OF THE EQUIPMENT BE DELAYED PENDING
GOP APPROVAL OF THE NASA AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT REQUIRES
MANY INTER-AGENCY CLEARANCES AND ULTIMATELY FORMAL APPROVAL
BY BOTH MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED AND PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO. SINCE BOTH OF THEM ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN
PYONGYANG AND PEKING UNTIL MAY 30, IT WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE TO GET A DECISION ON THE AGREEMENT UNTIL THEY
RETURNED. SHAHNAWAZ SAID THAT HE HIMSELF DID NOT HAVE
THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE EQUIPMENT TO
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COME IN ADVANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE HOPED THE

STATE DEPARTMENT AND NASA WOULD UNDERSTAND THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GAVE AS HIS SUGGESTION THAT NASA ALLOW A FULL MONTH TO PASS AFTER MAY 28 BEFORE SCHEDULING ANOTHER FLIGHT.

3. SHAHNAWAZ THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT SINCE THE GOP HAD TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL ASPECTS OF ALLOWING A TEMPORARY LANDSAT RECEIVER TO BE LOCATED IN PAKISTAN, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IF FULL ANSWERS COULD BE OBTAINED TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS:

(A) FIRSTLY, WHETHER THE LANDSAT RECEIVER TO BE PLACED IN IRAN COULD NOT COVER PAKISTAN ADEQUATELY AND MAKE THE LOCATION OF A RECEIVER IN PAKISTAN REDUNDANT AND UNNECESSARY? (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IRAN PLANS TO HAVE PERMANENT RECEIVER READY IN ABOUT NINE MONTHS TIME AND THAT THE PORTABLE TEMPORARY UNIT FOR PAKISTAN IS NEEDED FOR THE INTERIM.)

(B) SECONDLY, WHAT WOULD BE THE EXACT FULL GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF A RECEIVER LOCATED AT THE SITE NOW TENTATIVELY CHOSEN NEAR ISLAMABAD, INCLUDING THE RADIUS IN MILES FROM THE ISLAMABAD POINT? RELATED TO THIS, SHAHNAWAZ ASKED IF THE DATA RECEIVED BY THE RECEIVER WOULD INCLUDE MATERIAL COLLECTED ABOUT THE PRC OR OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (PRESUMABLY POSED BECAUSE OF GOP SENSITIVITY REGARDING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND OTHER NEIGHBORS).

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PROMPTIVE FOR THIS EMBASSY OR THE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE THIS MAY 28 LANDING REQUEST FURTHER AND STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT NASA RESCHEDULE ITS FLIGHT TO PAKISTAN FOR SOMETIME NEAR THE END OF JUNE. PROVIDED THE ANSWERS TO SHAHNAWAZ'S SECOND QUESTION ARE SATISFACTORY TO THE GOP, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT ULTIMATE GOP APPROVAL FOR A PORTABLE RECEIVER WILL BE RECEIVED. EMB IS NOTIFYING BENDEX REP STATIONED IN ISLAMABAD OF ABOVE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY THE ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY.
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AMSTUTZ

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